

UNITED STATES COURTS  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FILED

OCT 06 2010

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HOUSTON DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA FOR AN  
ORDER: (1) AUTHORIZING THE  
INSTALLATION AND USE  
OF A PEN REGISTER AND TRAP  
AND TRACE DEVICE, AND  
(2) AUTHORIZING RELEASE  
OF SUBSCRIBER, CELL-SITE, AND  
OTHER INFORMATION

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Magistrate Case No. H-10-990M

(UNDER SEAL)

**UNSEALED  
PER ORDER**

dated 2/9/12

APPLICATION

**A. INTRODUCTION**

S. Mark McIntyre, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, hereby applies to the Court for an Order:

1. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3122 and 3123, authorizing the installation and use of a pen register and trap and trace device<sup>1</sup> on the following mobile telephone number (214) 881-1754 (hereinafter the “**Target Device**”), issued by Metro PCS, with Electronic Serial Numbers (ESN) 268435458006251629, 268435458916764714, 268435456409672420, 268435458911742492, and 268435459309791528. According to the records of Metro PCS,

<sup>1</sup> A “pen register” is a “device or process which records or decodes dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information transmitted by an instrument or facility from which a wire or electronic communication is transmitted, provided, however, that such information shall not include the contents of any communication ...” 18 U.S.C. § 3127(3). A “trap and trace device” is “a device or process which captures the incoming electronic or other impulses which identify the originating number” or other identifiers “reasonably likely to identify the source of a wire or electronic communication, provided, however, that such information not include the contents of any communication.” 18 U.S.C. § 3127(4).

(214) 881-1754 is subscribed to Veronica Rodriguez, 404 Andrews Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75211, and is being utilized by **Oscar Joel HERNANDEZ**, aka **Oscar Joel HERNANDEZ-CARDONA** aka “Chivo”.

2. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(c), 2703(d), 3122, and 3123 and 47 U.S.C. § 1002, directing the **Target Device’s** service provider (including any internet service provider or other electronic communications provider providing voice-over IP telephony [VoIP]),<sup>2</sup> and any and all other telecommunication providers, persons, or entities providing wire or electronic communications service in the United States whose assistance may facilitate the execution of the Order, to disclose or provide, upon oral or written demand by agents of U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (hereinafter the “**Investigative Agency**”),

a. For the **Target Device**, records or other information pertaining to subscriber(s) or customer(s), including historical cell-site information<sup>3</sup> and call detail records<sup>4</sup> (including in two-way radio feature mode) for the sixty (60) days prior to the date the Order is signed by the Court (but not including the contents of communications).

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<sup>2</sup> VoIP is essentially a type of hardware and software that allows people to use the internet as a transmission medium for telephone calls. In general, this means sending voice information in the form of digital packets of information rather than sending it through the traditional public switch telephone network.

<sup>3</sup> A cell phone must send a radio signal to an antenna tower which, in turn, is connected to the provider's network. The area covered by the tower varies depending on the population density of the area. This area is often divided into thirds--120 degree sectors. “Cell site information” as used in this application refers to the antenna tower and sector to which the cell phone sends its signal. This includes the physical location and/or address of the cellular tower and identification of the particular sector of the tower receiving the signal.

<sup>4</sup> “Call detail records” are similar to toll records (i.e. historical telephone records of telephone activity, usually listing outgoing calls and date, time, and duration of each call), which are made and retained in the ordinary course of business. However, “call detail records” is the term used when referring to toll records of mobile telephones rather than hardline telephones. Unlike toll records, however, call detail records also include a record of incoming calls and the cellsite/sector(s) used by the mobile telephone to obtain service for a call or when in an idle state.

b. For the **Target Device**, after receipt and storage,<sup>5</sup> records or other information pertaining to subscriber(s) or customer(s), including the means and source of payment for the service and cell-site information, provided to the United States on a continuous basis for (a) the origination of a call from the **Target Device** or the answer of a call to the **Target Device**, (b) the termination of the call and (c) if reasonably available, during the progress of the call, but not including the contents of the communications.

c. After receipt and storage, the following subscriber records and other information for all published, non-published, or unlisted dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information captured by the pen register and trap and trace device on the **Target Device**:

- (A) name;
- (B) address;
- (C) local and long distance telephone connection records (including in Direct Connect mode), or records of session times and durations (including in Direct Connect mode);
- (D) length of service (including start date) and types of service utilized;
- (E) telephone or instrument number or other subscriber number or identity, including any temporarily assigned network address;
- (F) date of birth;
- (G) social security number;
- (H) driver's license (state and number);
- (I) contact names and numbers, and
- (J) employment information.

d. Any and all changes (including additions, deletions, and transfers) in service regarding the **Target Device**, including telephone numbers (including ESNs, International Mobile Subscriber Identifiers (IMSI) and Universal Fleet Mobile Identifiers

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<sup>5</sup> "After receipt and storage" is intended to ensure that the information authorized under these paragraphs is information that is first captured and recorded by the provider before being sent to the Investigative Agency."

(UFMI)) and subscriber information (published, non-published, listed, or unlisted) associated with these service changes.

3. It is further requested that the order authorizing the pen register and trap and trace device on the **Target Device** not only apply to the **Target Device**, but to any changed telephone number and subsequently assigned the same IMSI or ESN of the **Target Device**, or to any changed IMSI or ESN subsequently assigned to the same telephone number of the **Target Device** and within the sixty (60) day period.

**B. CERTIFICATION FOR A PEN REGISTER AND A TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. §§ 3122 AND 3123**

In support of this application, I state the following:

4. I am an “attorney for the Government” as defined in Rule 1(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and therefore, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3122, may apply for an order authorizing the installation and use of pen registers and trap and trace devices.

5. I certify that the information likely to be obtained from the pen register and trap and trace device on the **Target Device** is relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the **Investigative Agency** in connection with possible violations of federal criminal statutes, including Title 18 U.S.C § 201, Title 8 U.S.C §§ 1324 and 1327, and Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846, by **Oscar Joel Hernandez-Cardona aka Chivo, Francisco Javier Garza aka Fran, Angela Feregrino, Erica Morales** and others.

6. In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3121(c), Applicant has informed the **Investigative Agency** that it shall use technology reasonably available to it to restrict the recording or decoding of electronic or other impulses to the dialing, routing, and addressing and signaling information

utilized in the processing and transmitting of wire or electronic communications so as not to include the contents of any wire or electronic communication.

7. Therefore, based upon the above Certification and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3122 and 3123, I request that the Court issue an order authorizing:

a. The **Investigative Agency** to install, or cause the provider to install, and use, a pen register device(s) anywhere in the United States to record or decode dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information transmitted<sup>6</sup> from the **Target Device**, to record the date and time of such dialings or transmissions, and to record the length of time the telephone receiver in question is “activated” or connected for incoming or outgoing calls, for a period of sixty (60) days from the date the order is signed by the Court.

b. The **Investigative Agency** to install, or cause the provider to install, and use, a trap and trace device(s) on the **Target Device** anywhere in the United States to capture and record the incoming electronic or other impulses which identify the originating numbers or other dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information<sup>7</sup> reasonably likely to identify the source of a wire or electronic communication and to record the date, time, and duration of calls created by such incoming impulses, for a period of sixty (60) days from the date the Order is signed by the Court.

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<sup>6</sup> Including dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information transmitted over the communication service provider’s network by a two-way radio feature (including, but not limited to, Nextel’s “Direct Connect/Direct Dispatch,” Verizon Wireless’ “Push to Talk,” or Sprint’s “ReadyLink”). This two-way radio feature, like a walkie-talkie, provides communication between similarly equipped mobile phones by pressing a button on the telephone. As mentioned, information transmitted by the two-way radio feature will not disclose content of the call.

<sup>7</sup> Including dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information transmitted over the communication service provider’s network by a two-way radio feature (including, but not limited to, Nextel’s “Direct Connect/Direct Dispatch,” Verizon Wireless’ “Push to Talk,” or Sprint’s “ReadyLink”). As mentioned, information transmitted by the two-way radio feature will not disclose content of the call.

c. That, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3123(b)(1)(c), the requested installation and use of a pen register as well as trap and trace device permit the use of each not only on the **Target Device**, but also on any changed telephone number(s) (MIN[s]) subsequently assigned to an instrument bearing the same ESN, IMSI, IMEI, UFMI, or SIM as the **Target Device**, or any changed ESN, IMSI, IMEI, UFMI and/or SIM subsequently assigned to the same MIN as the **Target Device**, and any additional changed MIN, ESN, IMSI, IMEI, UFMI and/or SIM, whether the changes occur consecutively or simultaneously, listed to the same subscriber or account number as the **Target Device** within the 60-day period authorized by the Order.

8. I further request, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3123(a)(1) and 3123(b)(2), that the Order direct that the furnishing of information, facilities, and technical assistance necessary to accomplish the installation and operation of the pen register and trap and trace device by the **Target Device's** service provider (including any internet service provider or other electronic communications provider providing VoIP), and any and all other telecommunication providers,<sup>8</sup> persons, or entities providing wire or electronic communications service in the United States whose assistance may facilitate the execution of the Order (hereinafter, collectively, the "**Target Device's Service Provider(s)**"), occur unobtrusively and with a minimum of interference with the services that are accorded the persons with respect to whom the installation and use is to take place, with reasonable compensation to be paid by the **Investigative Agency** for reasonable expenses directly incurred in providing such information, facilities, and assistance.

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<sup>8</sup> The reference to "any and all other telecommunication providers" is necessary so that the Court order is still effective in the event that the **Target Device** is transferred to another carrier pursuant to "Local Number Portability" ("LNP"). LNP allows a telephone user to change his telephone company but still keep the same telephone number. However, to transfer (i.e. "port") a telephone number pursuant to LNP, the subscriber information must remain the same. Thus, this reference applies if the **Target Device** is transferred (i.e. "ported") to another telephone carrier, but the telephone number and subscriber information remain the same.

9. I further request that the Order direct the **Target Device's Service Provider(s)** furnish the results of the pen register and trap and trace devices to Special Agents of the **Investigative Agency** as soon as practicable, on a continuing basis, twenty-four (24) hours a day for the duration of the order.

10. I further request, because it is necessary to advance the purposes of this investigation, that the Court's Order direct the **Target Device's Service Provider(s)** not to terminate or restrict service to the **Target Device**; provided that, upon notice to the **Investigative Agency** that the **Target Device's** service would otherwise be terminated for non-payment pursuant to routine billing practices, the **Investigative Agency** agrees in writing to assume financial responsibility for all services provided to the **Target Device** after termination would otherwise have been effectuated and continuing to the earlier of the **Investigative Agency's** written notice to terminate service or to the expiration of the Court order (and any extensions thereof).

**C. SPECIFIC AND ARTICULABLE FACTS ESTABLISHING REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT SUBSCRIBER RECORDS AND CELL-SITE INFORMATION ARE RELEVANT AND MATERIAL TO AN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. § 2703**

11. 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) provides that a court may issue an order authorizing disclosure of a record or other information pertaining to a telephone subscriber or customer (not including the contents of communications) when a United States agency provides the Court with "Specific and articulable facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that ... the records or other information sought, are relevant and material to an ongoing criminal investigation." 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d).

The statute, by its own language, precludes holding the United States to a higher standard of proof, such as probable cause. See Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), Pub. L. No. 103-414 § 207(2), reprinted in 1992 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 4292. The House Report reflected that “[t]his section imposes an intermediate standard to protect on-line transactional records. It is a standard higher than a subpoena, but not a probable cause warrant.” See H.R. Rep. No. 103-827, at 31-32 (1994), reprinted in 1994 U.S.C.A.A.N. 3489, 3511-12.

12. For the purposes of obtaining a court order for disclosure as described in 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(c)(1)(B) and 2703(c)(2), and in order to satisfy the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d), Applicant, based on discussions with SA Jennifer D. Smith, hereby sets forth the following specific and articulable facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the records and other information identifying subscribers (but not including the contents of communications) for telephone numbers identified through the pen register and trap and trace device on the **Target Device**, cell-site information regarding the **Target Device**, subscriber information associated with any service changes regarding the **Target Device**, and the records or other information pertaining to subscribers (but not including the contents of communications) for the **Target Device** will be relevant and material to an ongoing criminal investigation:

a. Applicant certifies that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is conducting a criminal investigation of OSCAR JOEL HERNANDEZ aka Chivo, FRANCISCO JAVIER GARZA aka Fran, ANGELA FERREGRINO, ERICA MORALES, and others known and as yet unknown, in connection with possible violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201, bribery of a public official, Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324 and 1327, smuggling



of undocumented aliens, and Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and Section 846, distribution of and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, and it is believed that the subjects of the investigation, in particular, HERNANDEZ utilizes the **Target Device**, in furtherance of the subject offenses; and that the information likely to be obtained from the pen register and caller identification device is relevant and material to the ongoing criminal investigation in that it is believed that this information will concern the aforementioned offenses.

b. In November 2009, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) public corruption investigation was initiated on OSCAR JOEL HERNANDEZ aka Chivo and FRANCISCO JAVIER GARZA aka Fran, who are members of a drug and undocumented alien smuggling organization based in Houston with ties to Dallas, Texas. The organization is responsible for smuggling undocumented aliens and controlled substances into the Houston, Texas area, and collecting the proceeds generated from their illegal activities. HERNANDEZ and GARZA were found to be directly associated with numerous undocumented alien and controlled substance loads. HERNANDEZ and GARZA were also linked to two corrupt law enforcement officers that are allegedly assisting their organization. In 2009, an FBI Houston Division CHS, who has previously provided actionable intelligence, reported that an alleged corrupt Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol Agent was working with GARZA, and an alleged corrupt Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) trooper and others yet unknown, who are members of a drug trafficking/undocumented alien smuggling organization. According to the CHS, the agent and trooper are receiving bribes/kickbacks in exchange for allowing drugs and aliens, including Special Interest Aliens (SIA), to transit through the Falfurrias, Texas area to Houston, Texas. The CHS provided the command and

control telephonic numbers for members of the organization. The CHS reported that the heads of the organization were HERNANDEZ and GARZA. During this same time, a DHS OIG Confidential Informant (CI) reported the exact same information regarding the corrupt agent and officer. The CI also provided telephonic numbers of organizational members known to the CI. Investigation revealed that the telephonic numbers provided by this CI were exactly the same as the telephonic numbers provided by the FBI CHS.

c. During the course of the investigation, the FBI has conducted numerous consensual recordings against HERNANDEZ to the number assigned to the **Target Device**. During some of these conversations, it was learned that the organization's smuggling activities had slowed down, but that in the near future the organization was going to resume to their normal volume of smuggling activities.

d. On March 4-11, 2010, the aforementioned CI and an FBI Undercover employee (UCE) consensually recorded conversations with HERNANDEZ wherein the purchase and delivery of half pound of crystal methamphetamine was negotiated.

e. On March 12, 2010, HERNANDEZ and two associates delivered a half pound of high grade crystal methamphetamine to the CI in Houston, Texas. Prior, during, and after the delivery of crystal methamphetamine, HERNANDEZ utilized the **(469) 334-5185** to communicate with the CI and the UCE.

f. On June 27, 2010, FERERGRINO telephonically contacted an FBI CHS and asked if the CHS could go pick up seven (7) undocumented aliens that were currently at FRANCISCO JAVIER GARZA'S residence in Falfurrias, Texas. The undocumented aliens needed to be transported to FERERGRINO'S residence in Houston, Texas. A short time later, FERERGRINO

telephonically contacted the CHS. FEREGRINO advised not to worry about picking up the undocumented aliens because she had telephonically contacted HERNANDEZ and he had already sent someone to transport the aliens.

g. On July 26, 2010, HERNANDEZ telephonically contacted an FBI CHS and asked the CHS to telephonically contact "Francisca." Due to the fact that the CHS does not know a "Francisca", the CHS asked HERNANDEZ the identity of "Francisca." HERNANDEZ advised the CHS that "Francisca" was a code name for FEREGRINO. HERNANDEZ directed the CHS to contact FEREGRINO because there were four (4) undocumented aliens at GARZA'S residence that needed to be transported to FEREGRINO'S residence.

h. On August 3, 2010, HERNANDEZ telephonically contacted an FBI CHS and inquired whether the CHS could go to GARZA'S residence in Falfurrias, Texas and transport two undocumented aliens to Houston, Texas.

i. In July and August 2010, the aforementioned CI and the aforementioned FBI UCE consensually recorded conversations with HERNANDEZ wherein the purchase and delivery of one pound of crystal methamphetamine was negotiated.

j. On August 5, 2010, HERNANDEZ and one associate, later identified by Houston Police Department as OSCAR PEREZ, along with three females, delivered one pound of high grade crystal methamphetamine to the CI in Houston, Texas. Prior, during, and after the delivery of crystal methamphetamine, HERNANDEZ utilized the (469) 334-5185 to communicate with the CI and the UCE.

k. On or about September 17, 2010, HERNANDEZ instructed the CI and FBI UCE to contact him (HERNANDEZ) on the **Target Device** for any further communications. Since that

time, CI and FBI UCE have successfully been in contact with HERNANDEZ via the **Target Device** on approximately 10 occasions.

i. Toll analysis of the Target Device and previous telephones carried by HERNANDEZ show that he has been in contact with GARZA ninety six (96) times between January 16, 2010 and May 4, 2010. Additionally, HERNANDEZ has been in contact with FEREGRINO, two hundred twenty one (221) times between September 13, 2008 and July 7, 2010 and in contact with MORALES, nineteen (19) times between January 9, 2010 and March 24, 2010.

m. In SA Smith's experience, information identifying the subscribers for numbers captured by a pen register and trap and trace device, and subscriber information associated with service changes, has yielded information that is relevant and material to public corruption, drug trafficking, and undocumented alien trafficking investigations. Such information includes leads relating to:

- (A) The names of suspected customers, and other individuals who assist in the smuggling of undocumented aliens and narcotics;
- (B) The location of "stash" houses where undocumented aliens and narcotics are warehoused;
- (C) The identity of transportation sources used by organizational members;
- (D) the locations of money transfer businesses used by members of the operation to launder proceeds of undocumented alien and drug trafficking activities or through which money is exchanged with co-conspirators;
- (E) The geographic breadth of the suspected criminal organization; and
- (F) The identities of potential members or associates of the suspected criminal organization by examining the calling patterns revealed by the toll data.

n. SA Smith has advised Applicant, based upon his training and experience, one way to identify co-conspirators is to evaluate the pattern of calls made to and from the **Target**

**Device**, to obtain information identifying subscribers for these calls, and then conduct an investigation concerning those individuals. Based upon subscriber information, SA Smith may then direct, where appropriate, other investigators to conduct surveillance at these individuals' addresses and determine if criminal activity was occurring there, which in turn could yield potential names of co-conspirators and potential narcotics storage locations used by the organization.

o. Obtaining the subscriber name, address, date of birth, social security number, driver's license information, contact names and numbers, employment information; and method of payment is critical to accurately identifying such subscribers because, among other things:

- (A) if the subscriber name is a common one and/or the subscriber address is not current, it can be difficult to accurately identify the subscriber without a date of birth, driver's license, or social security number, especially in an area with a population as the Southern District of Texas;
- (B) if the subscriber name and address is fictitious, which frequently is the case when criminals purchase telephones, all or part of the remaining identification information may be truthful and help identify the subscriber or lead to identifying other co-conspirators; and
- (C) By accurately identifying subscribers using the above-requested information, agents can eliminate innocent individuals as targets.

p. The investigating agents have further advised me that the general geographic location of the **Target Device** derived from cell-site information used by the **Target Device** can be used to corroborate the observations of surveillance agents. More specifically, surveillance agents can compare observations of the user of the **Target Device** with cell-site information in order to verify the identification and proximate location of the user of the **Target Device**.

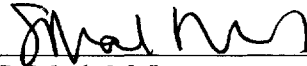
13. Accordingly, based upon the above proffer, and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(c)(1)(B), 2703(d), 3122, and 3123, because there are reasonable grounds to believe that such information is relevant and material to the ongoing investigation, I further request that the Court issue an Order requiring the **Target Device's Service Provider(s)** disclose, or provide upon oral or written request by Special Agents of the **Investigative Agency**, the information set forth above in Section A2.

**D. REQUEST THAT THE ORDER PRECLUDE NOTICE AND THAT THE APPLICATION AND ORDER BE FILED UNDER SEAL**

14. Based upon the information provided in this application, I believe disclosure of the requested court Order may result in flight from potential prosecution or the destruction of or tampering with evidence, or may otherwise seriously jeopardize the investigation. Moreover, the exact nature of the United States "pen register" device and its configuration is classified as a law enforcement sensitive investigative technique, the disclosure of which would likely jeopardize other on-going investigations, and/or future use of the technique. Therefore, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 2705(b) and 3123(d), I request that this application and Order be **SEALED**, that the identity of any targets of the investigation may be redacted from any copy of the order served on any service provider or other person, and that the Court direct the **Target Device's Service Provider(s)** not to disclose in any manner, directly or indirectly, by any action or inaction, the existence of the Order, in full or redacted form, of the pen register or trap and trace devices, or of this investigation, to the listed subscriber(s) for the **Target Device**, the occupant of said premises, the subscribers of the incoming calls to or outgoing calls from the **Target Device**, or to

any other person the listed subscriber(s) for the **Target Device**, or to any other person until otherwise ordered by this Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this declaration was executed on October 1, 2010, at Houston, Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mark McIntyre', is written over a horizontal line.

S. Mark McIntyre  
Assistant U.S. Attorney – S.D. Texas  
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